

CHAPTER 3

Malachi 3: [1] Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to this temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

1) God's Loving Covenant (1)

Remember God had Malachi begin this writing with the declaration "I have loved you saith the LORD". Also remember that the Malachi actually means "**my messenger**".

Now GOD begins chapter 3, "**Behold**", which means to look, set your eyes upon, pay attention.

GOD says "**I will send my messenger**." He is not just speaking about Malachi as being "my messenger."

This is an indication that GOD is going to do something.

You may ask, GOD is going to do something about what?

GOD is going to do something about the state of Israel as a nation and the corruption the people.

A. The Messenger of Preparation

Israel had complained (2:17) "**where is the God of judgment?**"

GOD responds by saying "**I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me.**"

We know that this messenger represents John the Baptist as being the one to prepare the way for Jesus.

In a royal procession, the messenger went before the king.

The messenger would proclaim or announce the arrival of the king.

The messenger would get things ready for the coming of the king.

The messenger would remove any obstacles in the path of the king.

The messenger would be responsible for the welcome of the king.

Isaiah 40:3-5

[3] The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

[4] Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

[5] And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

It was said and is written about John the Baptist:

Mark 1:2-4

[2] As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

[3] The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

[4] John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

Luke 7:26-28

[26] But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a prophet.

[27] This is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

[28] For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist:

GOD said that this messenger “*shall prepare the way before me.*”

B. The Messiah of Promise

Again GOD said that this messenger “*shall prepare the way before me.*”

Friends, the LORD Himself shall come!

Jesus is the Messiah of the Promise, He is the Messiah of the covenant.

Jesus will fulfill the old covenant and institute a new covenant.

Malachi 3: [2] But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: [3] And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. [4] Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years. [5] And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

2) God's Loving Commitment (2-5)

Malachi asks “When the Messiah of Promise comes, who will be able to stand?”

A. Christ's First Coming

The first time Jesus came, He did follow the forerunner John the Baptist.

Jesus was born in a lowly manger, possessed nothing, lived a sinless life and preached the gospel.

His gospel message was one that burned away the dross of sin like a refiners fire.

His message was one that cleansed the sinner like a fullers' soap of all spots and stains.

In His first coming Jesus died on a cruel cross, was buried and rose again.

Now, Jesus waits to raise the dead in Christ and rapture home the believer; before the 7 year tribulation.

B. Christ's Second Coming

The next time Jesus comes, He will not carry a cross but will wear a glorious crown. He is King of Kings!

It is said that He will come “*suddenly.*”

The sinner will not be able to stand at His Second Coming.

He will gather the sinners and cast them into Hell. He will cleanse this world of the devil and sin.

The LORD will punish all evil and wickedness.

Malachi lists some of these sinners as: sorcerers (devilish), adulterers (unfaithful), false swearers (liars), oppressors (unjust gain and deceivers) and those that have no fear or respect for GOD.

Malachi 3: [6] For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed..

3) God's Loving Constantcy(6)

If it were possible for GOD to change His mind about us, He would consume us for our sins.
Thank GOD, GOD does not change.
What He has promised, He will do!
He does not change in His love, nor does He change in His choice.
GOD chose Israel and friend He chose you and I the believer as well.

You would think that GOD's unchanging love would cause Israel to draw nigh unto Him.
Yet, despite the unchanging love of GOD, the people forsook the LORD.

Malachi 3: [7] Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? [8] Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. [9] Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. [10] Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. [11] And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. [12] And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the LORD of hosts.

4) God's Loving Command (7-12)

GOD commands the people, "*return unto me.*"

James 4:8

[8] Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.

The people question "*wherein shall we return?*"
As if they were not wayward and departing from the Lord.

GOD says "*would a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me.*"

The people question "*wherein have we robbed thee?*"
As if they had done nothing wrong.

God says you have robbed me in "*tithes and offerings.*"
The people would not rob their family, their neighbors, their employer nor the bank.
Yet, they had the audacity to rob GOD!
Such a dangerous and daring thing it is to rob GOD.

Psalm 24:1

[1] The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Friend, everything we have belongs to GOD. Without GOD we would have nothing!
GOD simply commands that we tithe (10%) in order to take care of things at the House of God.
He allows you to manage His remaining 90% for yourself, but 10% belongs in His House!
We find the tithe mentioned in the Law of Moses (**Dt 14:22-29**).
Yet, tithing predated the Law.
Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek, who is a type OR is the pre-incarnate Christ.

I believe Melchizedek is the pre-incarnate Christ as he was without father and mother (**Heb 7:3**).

Genesis 14:18-20

[18] And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.

[19] And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

[20] And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

If Abraham gave the LORD 10% before the Law, then under grace we should give the LORD 10%.

GOD said ***"I am the LORD, I change not."*** He is still expecting us to give the tithe.

Did you know that the average professing Christian gives 2.5% and the faithful give 5% of their income?

Hebrews 7:1-9

[1] For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;

[2] To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;

[3] Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.

[4] Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.

[5] And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham:

[6] But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises.

[7] And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better.

[8] And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth.

[9] And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham.

[10] For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.

[11] If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

[12] For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.

[13] For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar.

[14] For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.

[15] And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest,

[16] Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.

[17] For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

According to Malachi 3:9, the people would not give as GOD commanded, but were stingy.

Therefore GOD says ***"ye are cursed with a curse."***

GOD will not bless disobedience. GOD will ensure divine discipline to those who will not give.

If you would give 10% to GOD, then 90% will go further than 100% while robbing GOD.

Someone may say "I can't afford to tithe. If GOD's Word is true, you can't afford not to tithe."

If we would put GOD first, then He will meet all our needs.

Matt 6:33

[33] But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

The Whole nation of Israel was guilty of robbing GOD.

GOD commanded the people to bring all the tithes into the storehouse.

Our giving should be planned, periodic, proportional and private (1 Cor 16:1-4).

Our giving should be generous, cheerfully and freely given (2 Cor 9).

The purpose of the tithe is to take care of GOD's House.

The LORD says "***prove me***", try me, put me to the test.

See if you can out-give the LORD, see if you can give and poorer for it.

Friend GOD says it can't be done.

If we would open our wallets then GOD will open His windows.

If we would give to the LORD in faith, GOD would open the windows of heaven.

He will pour out His blessing and we will not have room enough to receive it.

GOD will give the provisions and grant the protection we need against the devourer.

When we give in obedience, when GOD blesses us for doing so, then all nations will call you blessed.

Malachi 3: [13] Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee? [14] Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts? [15] And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered. [16] Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. [17] And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. [18] Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not

5) God's Loving Comfort (13-18)

GOD admonishes the people for speaking harshly against Him.

The people question "***what have we spoken so much against thee?***"

As if they had not complained, murmured and spoken sinfully.

GOD says you see the proud and wicked seemingly prosper.

GOD says I know that you say it's useless to serve GOD.

GOD says you think the cost of serving GOD isn't worth the reward.

Remember Paul, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit warned Timothy and all preachers.

2 Timothy 4:2

[2] Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

To reprove is to tell a fault or point out error. It's censorship and GOD has done that.
To rebuke is to show and error with the intent to correct. It's for correction and GOD has done that.
To exhort is to encourage and to comfort. It is for comfort. GOD is trying to do that.

Though most people were discouraged, GOD had a remnant that went about to encourage others.
The LORD heard their words of comfort in difficulties and GOD wrote it in the Book of Remembrance.
Friend GOD knows what you do and say; and why you do and say it.
GOD knows the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Job 16:19

[19] my record is on high

He knows your motives and will reward openly.

In the midst of suffering hardships, assaulted by doubt and discouragements; when the men of GOD were steeped in corruption and mediocrity, GOD says I have jewels that will shine.

Jewels are rare, and even though they are hidden may be found all over the world.
Jewels are polished, displayed and protected. Jewels are treasured precious possessions.

One day the dilemma of who really is on the LORD's side will be cleared up.
The distinction between the righteous and the wicked will be displayed.
GOD knows those who are His and will separate between the saints and the sinners.

GOD deserves, desires and demands that we serve Him.

I have met many people that regretted they did not serve God, but I have never met anyone that regretted they did served God.

Ps 58:11

[11] there is a reward for the righteous